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## **Legislators continue work on CORE package to help revitalize Michigan's downtowns**

**LANSING** – Members of the Senate and House today announced the continuation and addition to a legislative initiative designed to help revitalize downtown centers across Michigan and create job opportunities.

The Creating Opportunities for Renewed Economies – CORE – is geared toward expanding and coordinating many state economic programs to operate more effectively, as well as provide incentives for growth in our cities and villages. Launched in 2004, the CORE package saw a number of its initiatives enacted in the previous session, using bold thinking along with common sense proposals to spur growth in city centers.

“Every city, village, and local community across our state is important,” said Sen. Jason Allen, R- Traverse City. “Our aim with this legislation is to provide additional tools and enhance existing programs that encourage growth and economic development in our cities and villages – the hearts of our communities.”

As a primary package sponsor, Allen noted the package includes new legislation that would allow multiple buildings to share one elevator and reserve 0.5 percent of the federal transportation fund earmarked for non-motorized trails to be used for sidewalk development within a city or village limit.

The package is designed to help communities across the state revitalize their central business and residential districts, initiate new growth and create job opportunities.

Additional legislation included in the CORE package would:

- Allow municipalities to designate a historical neighborhood tax increment finance authority to eliminate the causes of deterioration, and promote residential and economic growth within a historic district;
- Provide incentives for city or village residents who convert the upstairs of a garage or create an auxiliary dwelling unit on their residential property for renters;
- Consolidate state offices into centralized facilities;
- Allow a downtown development authority to operate a parking violations bureau for a local unit of government;
- Create a Single Business Tax credit to finance renovation and improvement projects for historical buildings; and
- Establish a “Commerce Center” as a city, village or large urban township to address the needs of Michigan’s economic hubs.

(More)

“Michigan is a large and extremely diverse state,” Allen said. “It doesn’t matter if you live in Boyne City or Battle Creek, Paradise or Port Huron. We need to do everything in our power to encourage economic development and prosperity in the heart of our cities and villages.”

The CORE package will be introduced in both the Senate and House today in a bi-partisan manner. The bills will be read into the Senate record and will be designated as Senate Bills 337-344.

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**Editor’s note: Audio clips of Senator Allen will be available later today on the Internet at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/>.**

**Editor’s note: A photo of Sen. Allen and colleagues unveiling the CORE package will be available later today for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Allen/Allen.htm>**